

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened  
3 to learn of the death of William E. Hartnett, formerly of  
4 Grayslake, who passed away July 21, 2002; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Hartnett was born December 4, 1919, in  
6 Chicago; he enlisted in the Army prior to the attack on Pearl  
7 Harbor and requested a transfer to train as a pilot in the  
8 Army Air Corps; during World War II, he flew 58 missions over  
9 France and the Netherlands piloting a B-26 Martin Marauder  
10 named the Chicago Cyclone, and later was a flight instructor;  
11 he was discharged a highly decorated captain in 1945; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Hartnett was a veteran Lake County attorney,  
13 law maker, and Democratic Party activist; during a long  
14 political and legal career, he was a former chairman of the  
15 Lake County Democratic Party, a legislator, and candidate in  
16 1970 for the Illinois Supreme Court; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Hartnett often clashed with county Democrats  
18 over a number of issues, including establishment of the  
19 College of Lake County, and party ideals during his  
20 chairmanship of the Democratic Party from 1962 to 1964; he  
21 took on Republican opponents with relish; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1978, Mr. Hartnett sued then Governor James  
23 Thompson for discrepancies over a petition for a tax-cap  
24 amendment, claiming forgery by Lake County Republican  
25 Leaders; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Hartnett was first elected to the Illinois  
27 House in 1964 on the so-called "bed sheet ballot", the only  
28 statewide election of 118 legislators after the General  
29 Assembly failed to agree on redistricting; and

30 WHEREAS, During his lone two-year term in the House, Mr.  
31 Hartnett helped write the State's Junior College Act and was

1 instrumental in the establishment of the College of Lake  
2 County; later, he became the college's attorney; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Hartnett first practiced law in the McHenry  
4 County seat of Woodstock after receiving his law degree in  
5 1947 from the University of Virginia; in 1953, he became a  
6 trial lawyer with the National Labor Relations Board in St.  
7 Louis; two years later, he moved back to Lake County and  
8 established his private practice in Waukegan; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Hartnett represented a number of firms,  
10 including The News Sun, many labor unions and school  
11 districts, and was a defense counsel for State Farm  
12 Insurance; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Hartnett was a member of the Lake County and  
14 Illinois State Bar Associations, several charitable and civic  
15 organizations, and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots  
16 Association; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Hartnett will be deeply missed by all those  
18 who knew him and loved him, especially his wife, Betty; his  
19 two sons, William R. Hartnett and Jeffrey Hartnett; his two  
20 daughters, Emilie Downs and Elizabeth Hartnett; and his  
21 eleven grandchildren; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
23 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
24 all those who knew him and loved him, the death of William E.  
25 Hartnett; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
27 presented to the family of William Hartnett as an expression  
28 of our esteem.